

**PATENT**

App. Ser. No.: 10/020,382  
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010307US1  
PS Ref. No.: IBMK/10307

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present invention relates generally to computers ~~or other~~ and computer networks, and more particularly, to data communication protocols for processing ~~[[for ]]~~ information communicated between hosts such as computers connected to a network.

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] As is well known, most network computer communication is accomplished with the aid of a layered software architecture for moving information between host computers connected to the network. The layers help to segregate information into manageable ~~segments, the~~ segments. ~~The~~ general functions of each layer ~~maybe~~ may be based on a reference model – Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). OSI sets forth seven processing layers through which information may pass when received by a host in order to be presentable to an end user. Similarly, transmission of information from a host to the network may pass through those seven processing layers in reverse order. Each step of processing and service by a layer may include copying the processed information. Another reference model that is widely implemented, called TCP/IP (TCP stands for transport control protocol, while IP denotes Internet protocol) essentially employs five of the seven layers of OSI.